



SOUTHEAST NEWS

October - November 2016

Southeast Elementary School, 134 Warrenville Rd., Mansfield Center, CT 06250 423-2793

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Engaging and robust are two words that come to mind when I think of all the experiences we have had at Southeast School thus far. I felt like my family came home when everyone visited on the Opening Day Celebration, our Open House and most recently, the Southeast School Carnival this past weekend. I was overjoyed with the tremendous school wide participation. Thank you to all the classroom teachers, staff members, community, parents, PTO



members and officers who contributed their time and money to the silent auction, festival planning, set up, clean up, and events of the day. At one point, I didn't think the Carnival would actually happen this year – and I love the opportunity to be so wrong!

I write today from the bird's eye view, somewhere over the Midwest, en-route to Colorado to attend the Ed Leader 21 conference in Denver. By the time you read this, I will have returned with stories to share about the people I met, the ideas that inspired me, and the story of my presentation with our Superintendent, Kelly Lyman, and the CEO of Ed Leader 21, Ken Kay. Ken has asked Kelly and me to co-present with him to share our initial work and mapping of our 21st Century skills work at the district and school level in an effort to help other schools who are charting the same course. While I am excited to share (and quite humbled), I am probably more excited to hear of the work of other schools and the direction they have taken. There is always so much to learn and an infinite number of paths to take to school growth. This is my first large scale conference since coming to Southeast over 3+ years ago – and I feel ready to grow in my thinking and the direction of the school. I will be sharing their work this year through my newsletter, as seen in different grades, to help you understand our work and to help you know what questions may be helpful in talking to your child(ren).

Last year's newsletter columns were focused on Class Meeting. I am pleased to share that this initiative will continue this year. The only change to this is timing and many teachers are calling it Morning Meeting this year. With the timely arrival of our busses, we are fortunate that our dreams of the best ways to start our day are coming true. Through the Morning Meeting time slot, students' emotional and social needs are addressed. I believe this opens pathways for learning to occur. If you are interested in learning more, you can view the Responsive Classroom website, or reach out to your child's classroom teacher or me. We would be happy to share with you.

October and November planning is underway. And you will see some exciting changes in the third and fourth grade classrooms around independent reading and helping students to select books, sustain longer periods of independent reading, and to be able to respond in writing to what they are reading. Also this month, we will be celebrating the Mansfield Teacher of the Year, Senora Hutton, at the upcoming Board of Education Meeting held at Southeast School. We also have a special concert by musician Tony Memmel-funded in full by a grant received from the Gawlicki Foundation. The students have been learning the song *Lucky Finn* in music class and you can find a great video on You Tube. He will be speaking to our students about composing music – and Ms. Smallidge, our music teacher, will be using this experience to inspire some composition in her music classes. This, of course, is just a small sampling of the many things in store for the children. So much fun and learning awaits – and we are eager and inspired.

Fondly,
Lauren Rodriguez, Principal

Calendar of Events

Oct. 3.....	6:30 PM- SE PTO Meeting	
Oct. 7.....	3:30-4:45 PM- Running Club	
Oct. 10.....	NO SCHOOL - Columbus Day	 Columbus Day
Oct. 11.....	NO SCHOOL -Staff Professional Development	
Oct. 13.....	6:30 PM- Tony Memmel Concert	
Oct. 14.....	3:30-4:45 PM- Running Club	
Oct. 20....	3:30-5:00 PM- Green Thumbs Club	
Oct. 21.....	3:30-4:45 PM- Running Club	
Oct. 27....	9:00 am Teacher of the Year Assembly	
Oct. 28....	3:30-4:45 PM- Running Club	
Oct. 31.....	Halloween	 
Nov. 6.....	Daylight Savings Time Ends	
Nov. 7.....	Gr. 4 Field Trip to New Britain Museum of Art	 field trip
	6:30 PM- PTO Meeting	
Nov. 8.....	NO SCHOOL -Staff Professional Development	
Nov. 9.....	3:30-4:45 PM- Running Club	
Nov. 11.....	NO SCHOOL - Veterans' Day	 Veterans Day
Nov. 17.....	3:30-5:00 PM- Green Thumbs Club	
Nov. 18.....	3:30-4:45 PM- Running Club	
Nov. 21.....	12:45- Early Dismissal Grades K-4 NO PRESCHOOL CLASSES	
Nov. 22....	12:45- Early Dismissal Grades K-4 NO PRESCHOOL CLASSES	
Nov. 23....	12:45- Early Dismissal Grades K-4 NO PRESCHOOL CLASSES	
Nov. 24...	NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Day	 Give Thanks
Nov. 25....	NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Holiday	

Attendance Line/Nurse: 423-2793 Please call by 9:00 AM if your child will be absent or tardy



Music Corner

The music room is bursting with singing, movement, and the sounds of drums and xylophones! I am so excited to begin this musical journey with your children.

One goal of the music program is to give students the tools to become independent musicians who can read, audiate (sing in your mind), and perform music. We will begin to accomplish this goal by matching pitch with our healthy children's singing voices, reading music melodically using the system of solfege (do, re, mi, fa, sol, la, ti do), and to reading rhythms within their musical context. The second goal of the music program at Southeast School is to empower students, as listeners, to evaluate and analyze many different types. We will study elements such as the form, instrumentation, and story behind the music, as well as how the music fits into its time period and/or culture. Finally, Southeast students will be asked to transfer their music literacy and analytical skills into creating their own music. This may be creating movements to music, a bass line for a familiar melody, or measures of rhythm in a given time signature. Creating music allows students to synthesize their music skills into an individual or group product that is their own. I will also keep you updated with songs, books, and listening pieces that can extend into your home through Friday e-notices and this newsletter. If you would like to schedule a visit to your child's music class please email me at kate.smallidge@mansfieldct.org

Kate Smallidge, Music Educator

Choir Corner

The Southeast Singers is open to all Third and Fourth Grade students. This choir meets every other Wednesday during recess by grade level.



The Southeast Songbirds is open to all First and Second Grade students. This choir meets every other Friday during recess by grade level.

The choirs are open to all students for September and early October as students learn what it feels like to be in a choir. Letters will go home with all singers and songbirds in mid-October so students understand their long term commitment to the choral group.

Reminder:

**Please call the attendance line
423-2793 by 9:00 am if your child
will be absent or late to school.**

*If we do not hear from you, we are required
to locate you to verify your child's absence.*



Check out our Webpage & Principal's Blog

mansfieldct.gov/southeast

Looking for a calendar of upcoming events, lunch menu, bus forms, staff directory, Teacher Homepages, PTO information, Health information and more? Our webpage has all that and more!



Look on our webpage for the icon like the one above to take you to Mrs. Rodriguez's Blog. She's reported on many of the events and celebrations we've had here at Southeast School and has included lots of photos. Enjoy!



Ask Mrs. Doyle...

Welcome back to school! My name is Amanda Doyle and I am the Literacy Coach at Southeast School. This fall, I'm launching this column in the newsletter as a place for you, the Southeast community, to find answers to questions you have about reading.

Learning to read isn't black and white. Sometimes you might not be sure what to do to help your daughter develop her literacy skills or how to help your son find an engaging book to read.

Please email your questions to me or send a note into school and I'll reply to you directly or answer your question in the newsletter (no names attached). Examples of questions include:

- What are some games that I can play with my young children that will help them learn to read?
- My daughter keeps talking about finding "Just Right" books. What does that mean?
- Should I cover up the pictures in my child's book so she has to sound out all of the words she doesn't know? She uses the pictures a lot.

What are your burning questions about reading? Please let me know! doylear@mansfieldct.org

- Amanda Doyle

International Dot Day

The whole school celebrated International Dot Day to encourage people of all ages to harness their creativity. The inspiration behind the event is the children's book *The Dot* by Peter H. Reynolds. It relates the tale of a teacher who challenges one of his female pupils to take courage in her abilities and from a dot on a page, the youngster goes on to make her mark.



DRESSING FOR THE WEATHER

Now that the weather is changing and temperatures are dropping, dressing your child appropriately for the weather is important. Students will be sent outdoors for recess, weather permitting. It is important for the students to go out in the fresh air and exercise.



We're Off and Running!

Southeast Mileage Club and Southeast Running Club have officially begun. We are on the move and we think it's a great time for the kids to set some goals! For those First and Second Grade runners who complete 10 cards by the end of May, there is an afterschool "Mystery Hike" they can venture out on with Miss Parker and Señora Hutton. For Third and Fourth grade runners who complete ten cards, there is an opportunity to attend KidsMarathon at EO Smith High School in early June.

We would like to suggest that you talk to your children about attending these year- end events. We hope lots of them will join us. It would be great to encourage your child to complete 5 cards by November (when we end for the season) and to complete the final 5 cards between March and May (when spring clubs resume). We'll be helping them figure out the best way to reach their goals!

Parent support in both of these clubs has been wonderful. We want to thank everyone who comes to Mileage Club and Running Club to support us and to cheer the kids on. They love seeing you out there and we couldn't do it without you!

First Grade Visits Buell's Orchard

On Tuesday, September 27th the 1st graders went to Buell's Orchard in Eastford. This field trip was to wrap up their study of Johnny Appleseed and apple trees. The kids got to pick an apple in the orchard to eat, saw a pumpkin patch, and had the opportunity to see how cider is made, and sampled it. They also saw how the apples were being sorted for shipping to local grocery stores.

A special thanks to our chaperones, Amber Casey, Ron Mott, Olivia Lacy and Ciara Hamlin.



From the PTO:

Thank you, Erin Clark for your dedication and service to the Southeast PTO. We appreciate all you have done as President.

The 2016-2017 PTO officers are:

President.....Kimberly Christenson
 Vice-President.....Susan Cote
 Treasurer.....Noreen Halbrooks
 Secretary.....Sheralyn Sibilia

Our Carnival and Auction was a big success this year! Thank you to all who made it possible!

REMINDER- Our next PTO meeting will be Monday, October 3, 2016 @ 6:30-7:30pm at Southeast School. Pizza and Childcare are provided! Looking forward to seeing you there!!

FLU CLINIC

Oct. 6th

3:00 pm -7:00 pm

Mansfield Middle School

The flu shot is recommended for everyone but is **required for preschool children before December 31st.**



Be Flu Smart.....

This time of year, it's important to brush up on the symptoms of Influenza, and what you can do to safeguard yourselves and your families.

Influenza is a viral infection that can make you feel very sick. It is generally spread from infected droplets in coughs or sneezes. Symptoms generally come on suddenly and include: fever, chills, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, headaches, and fatigue. (some people may also experience vomiting and diarrhea. This is more common in children than adults).

The best treatment for the flu is prevention. Unless contraindicated, individuals should receive a flu vaccination each year during the fall. Generally, flu season peaks from March to November. It's also important to wash your hands regularly, eat healthy foods, get plenty of rest, and avoid exposure to those that may be sick.

There are antiviral medications that may shorten the duration of the flu and lessen the severity of the symptoms. If you have flu like symptoms, you should contact your health care professional to discuss your options.

Go to www.cdc.gov/flu/about/disease/index.htm to find out more information.

Lunch Account Balance Notifications

Would you like to receive e-mail notifications in regards to your child's lunch account balance?

Go to the Mansfield Public Schools Food Services Webpage to sign up for Weekly Balance Reminders or Low Balance Warnings.
www.mansfieldct.gov/lunchmenus



GOT BOX TOPS?



TURN 'EM IN NOW!

Thank you to all families, students, and staff who continue to bring in the Box Tops & Labels for Education.

Savory Samples

A great night was had by all! The school was looking very festive and "the table was set" for a wonderful evening of sampling very unique, delicious recipes from countries covering four continents.

Over 160 Southeast family members and staff came together on September 29th to sample generous helpings of savory foods from more than 30 different nations. It was truly a tribute to the diversity of our Southeast family!

